

FBRS 240/3

Fibre Structures I
Wednesday 13:30-17:30
VA-102

Kathryn Lipke, Professor

"The fruit of the creative spirit is the work of art itself, and if there is a first-fruits ritual for artists, it must either be the willing "waste" of art (in which one is happy to labor all day with no hope of production, nothing to sell, nothing to show off, just fish thrown back into the sea as soon as they are caught) or else, when there is a product, it must be this thing we have already seen, the dedication of the work back toward its origins".

from THE GIFT by Lewis Hyde

DESCRIPTION

An introduction to fibre structures with an emphasis on loom and off loom techniques including felting and other percussion textiles. Dyeing methods such as ikat, printing and painting on warps are included. Consideration is given to the history of the style, methods, materials and techniques of textiles.

COURSE OUTLINE

September and October:

- Construction of a frame loom
- An introduction to frame loom weaving
- Lectures and slide presentation to augment course work

Assignment: to make two woven constructions with an emphasis on color, form, texture and the translation of imagery to the woven form.

Critiques: September 28th, October 19th

November and December:

- The basket - a look at tradition and change

Assignment: the container, with an emphasis on form, structure and fantasy

Critiques: November 9th and November 30th

January and February:

- An introduction to loom weaving

Assignment: to set up and warp the loom, to weave a sampler to include: plain weave, twill, satin, basket, double weave and lace weaves. Fragments - ritual, symbol and historical traditions, a look at Coptic and Peruvian textiles.

Critiques: February 1st and March 1st

March and April:

- Felting and other percussion textiles
A personal approach to fibre structures with an emphasis on space, movement, tensions, structure and form.

Critiques: March 30th and April 19th

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION AND EVALUATION

Students work with a variety of loom and non-loom techniques with special emphasis given to the materials and processes of fibre structures with the desire that the student understand their unique potential, learn to control them and use them to express his/her individuality. The lecture and slide presentations are intended to focus on form and content (the language of fibre). The visual and verbal presentations by each student is to focus on the aesthetic inquiry undertaken in connection with each assignment.

Attendance is essential. Additional workshop time is scheduled for the completion of the programme.

A notebook/sketchbook should be kept.

Seven projects will be due, plus samples relating to the various techniques. Specific problems to be assigned as the term progresses.

Evaluation is based on the following criteria: imagination, technical expertise, successful intergration of concept and materials.

Final grade: 10% on each of the first six projects plus the samples. 30% on the final project.

STUDENTS RESPONSIBILITIES

Each student is responsible for his/her own materials except some dyes, pigments, chemicals and tools available in the studio. It is important that students come well prepared for all classes. Absent students must obtain information on materials and assignments before the next class. It is expected that students do approximately six hours of studio work between each class. The workshop schedule will be posted.

To prevent health hazards due to the toxic composition of the dyes, students are requested not to eat, drink, or smoke in the studio area. When mixing dyes, a mask, goggles and appropriate working clothing must be worn. It is each student's responsibility to keep the studio clean.

"One should always be curious. Not a passive curiosity dependent upon information received, but an aggressive curiosity that compels one to seek things out and ascertain them for oneself".

Issey Miyake